FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 FEBRUARY 1985

Lebanon

IDF Operations — The IDF Killed nine "terrorists" and captured several others during searches of Shi'ite villages in the Tyre area on 23 February, Jerusalem radio announced. Meanwhile, in statements carried by the radio, Nabih Birri and the Amal movement declared a "general mobilization" in the south against the Israelis. At the Israeli Cabinet session the following day, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres resisted pressure to discuss accelerating the withdrawal from Lebanon, but he told the ministers that a detailed debate on the IDF withdrawal will be held at the session on 3 March, according to IDF radio.

Phalangists in Damascus — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad discussed the Lebanese situation with a visiting Phalangist Party delegation on 23 February, Damascus radio reported. Party leader Elie Karamah, who headed the delegation, subsequently stated that the "positive and frank" talks focused on security issues and "clarified the picture to a large extent," according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Noting that the delegation's visit to Damascus was the first "in several years," Voice of Lebanon radio said the meeting with Al-Asad covered plans to strengthen the Lebanese Army as well as the security plans for greater Beirut, the coastal road, and the Beirut-Damascus road.

PLO-Jordanian Agreement

Following the publication of the Jordanian-PLO agreement in Amman, acting Jordanian Information Minister Tahir Hikmat said that UN Resolution 242 "is one of a group of principles" aimed at achieving a settlement, Amman radio reported. Responding to Hikmat's comments, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi restated the PLO's rejection of Resolution 242 "categorically and in principle," according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Israel

Assassination Plans — In a letter to the Amman AFP office the "Terror Against Terror" organization announced plans to assassinate Prime Minister Peres because of his "peace in exchange for land" policy, *'Al HAMISHMAR* reported.

Falashas — The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Addis Ababa radio, called on the international community to force Israel to return the "kidnapped" Falashas to Ethiopia. Monitored Israeli media have not reported or commented on the Ethiopian statement.

Syria-Jordan

On 23 February five armed men "infiltrated" Syria's Dar'a Province from Jordanian territory and killed two civilians, the Syrian information minister announced in a statement carried by Damascus SANA. The Jordanian charge d'affaires in Damascus was summoned and informed of Syria's "strong denunciation" of the incident, the statement noted. The Jordanian Interior Ministry "categorically" refuted the Syrian statement, according to Amman television.

Kuwait

Following the 21 February announcement of the final general election results, the Kuwaiti Government resigned on 23 February, KUNA reported. The Kuwaiti amir later issued an order, broadcast by Kuwait radio, reappointing the heir apparent as prime minister. While the Arab nationalists scored a five-seat comeback it is expected that the conservatives will again dominate the National Assembly, the *ARAB TIMES* opined. Political sources anticipate little change in foreign policy but noted the increase in the number of seats now held by candidates calling for economic and social reform, the paper added.

Iran-Iraq War

Despite "some weaknesses" the UN report on POW conditions shows that Iraq is primarily responsible for violating Geneva conventions, according to an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement cited by IRNA. An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Iraq is ready to implement the UN recommendations "sincerely and accurately," INA reported. Meanwhile Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi announced that all "crippled and ill" Iraqi POW's will be released unilaterally, IRNA disclosed.

Pakistan

Constitutional amendments will be announced in "a few days," President Ziaul Haq said in a speech concerning the 25 February general elections broadcast by Karachi radio. President Zia went on to describe the elections as completely "free and impartial," adding that he hopes the law enforcement agencies will maintain law and order "at all costs." Addressing correspondents later, President Zia said that after the restoration of the 1973 Constitution martial law will be lifted "in phases," the radio reported.

Algeria

A protocol of agreement on supplying Spain with liquefied natural gas was signed following talks between Spain's Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and his Algerian counterpart, APS reported.

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Keshtmand Attends 23 Feb USSR Embassy Reception

LD241742 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] On the occasion of the 67th founding anniversary of the USSR Red Army, a reception was held yesterday in the Soviet Embassy in Kabul by the USSR military attache. The reception was attended by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, other members of the Politburo and secretaries of the party Central Committee, some members of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, distinguished party cadres, generals and high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces, ambassadors and military attaches of friendly countries in Kabul.

Officials Attend Laghman, Konar Province Sessions

LD230554 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] A joint party and government delegation comprising the minister of education and training, Abdul Samad Qayumi, deputy ministers of the Ministries of Commerce, Agriculture and Land Reform and Public Health, and the authoratative officials of the Armed Forces and the Ministries of Irrigation and Water Resources, Mines and Industries, Electrical Energy, Public Works and Transport, headed by Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part in the session of the headquarters of Laghman Province on 20 February and in the session of the headquarters of Konar Province on 21 February in order to assess the complex plan of 1363 [ending 20 March 85] and to approve the complex plan for the year 1364.

In these sessions, also attended by Meftahoddin Safi, head of the eastern zone, detailed reports were presented by the heads of the headquarters of those provinces on implementation of the complex plan in 1363.

After discussions being held on the subject, officials of ministries gave specific guidance concerning their problems. The complex plan for the year 1364 and the consolidation and expansion of state power in Laghman and Konar Provinces were also approved in the sessions.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Mir Saheb Karwal assessed the work and activities of the party and state organs of these provinces and issued specifice instructions on eliminating the shortcomings and implementation of 1364 complex plan.

Herat Province 'Rebels' Crushed, Captured

LD221841 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Quoting a security forces spokesman in Herat Province, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of successful operations recently carried out in the environs of Ghurigan and Kuhestan Districts, 54 armed rebels of the Jami'at band who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the noble inhabitants of these regions were crushed and 3 of them were arrested.

Four DShK's, 1 mortar, 2 heavy machineguns with 5,900 rounds of ammunition, 43 Egyptian and Chinese Kalashnikovs, 45 antitank mines, a quantity of other mines, 4 medical boxes, 13 motorcycles and 1 motorvehicle were seized. One mortar, 2 DShK's, 25 various weapons, 1 medical box and 3 hideouts were destroyed.

Bomb, Arson Attack on West DRA Mosque Condemned

LD240638 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul, February 23, BAKHTAR — The treacherous action of counter-revolution in connection with the planting of bomb and arsoning of the congregational mosque in Foshfar village of Herat, biggist city, in the west of the DRA, and the destruction of the house of Khalifa Foshfar, one of the spirituals of that village, was strongly condemned by hundreds of working people of Mazar-e Sharif, at a grand meeting in that city. At the meeting which was held in the compound of the congregational mosque of Hazrat-e Ali, members of the Islamic affairs department of Mazar-e Sharif, scholars and spiritual figures of that city had participated.

The speakers at the meeting regarded the recent treacherous and anti-Islamic activities of the counter-revolution another example of their anti-Islamic and inhuman crimes.

Filing of Nominations for Elections Postponed

BK221452 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The filing of nomination papers for parliamentary elections next Sunday [24 February] has been postponed. The Election Commission announced this in Dhaka this evening.

Meanwhile, BSS, quoting a spokesman of the Presidency, has reported that Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, president and chief martial law administrator, might address the nation soon.

No Reason Given

BK230649 Dhaka BSS in English 0629 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Dhaka Feb 23 (BSS) — The Election Commission has postponed the date of filing nomination papers on Feb 24 for parliament indicating change in polls April 6, it was announced here last night.

The Election Commission did not assign any reason for the change but President Lt. Gen. Hussain Mohammad Ershad is likely to explain behind such move in an address to the nation.

The president thrice postponed the polls, wound up military courts and zonal martial law, and restored part of fundamental rights and dropped political ministers in phases to accomodate opposition points of view.

But the principal opposition parties including Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party say that they oppose the election in view of some of their unfulfilled five-point demands and "conditions" in the country.

Election Postponement 'Likely'

HK230928 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT 23 Feb 85

[By Roushan Zaman]

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 23 (AFP) — The Bangladesh general election scheduled for April 6 is likely to be postponed, following a lifting of the nomination deadline yesterday, an opposition leader and analysts said today.

Nirmal Sen, a leader of the opposition 15-Party Alliance, said the government would be forced to indefinitely postpone the poll because of a boycott by the major opposition groups.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said tomorrow's deadline for filing nominations to stand in the Parliamentary election had been indefinitely postponed. But the military ruler's announcement yesterday said nothing about the April 6 election itself.

He cancelled two attempts to hold elections last year, each time because the opposition said they would boycott them unless martial law was abolished first and a neutral caretaker government installed to oversee the election.

Lieutenant-General Ershad has relaxed some aspects of martial law, abolishing some courts and offices, in recent weeks, analysts said.

He has also promised to slowly return the country completely to civilian rule after the election.

But the opposition 15-Party Alliance, Seven-Party Alliance and right-wing fundamentalist Jami'at-e Eslami Party have stood by their demands for taking part, and earlier decided to boycott the April poll. They ignored the president's promises that the election would be free and fair. The government as a result was likely to postpone the election indefinitely again, analysts said today.

The president suspended Parliament when he took power in a bloodless coup in March 1982 and it has not sat since.

A presidential spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE today that Lt.-Gen. Ershad was expected to make an announcement soon about the election and the political situation in general. The president's job would not be on the line in a general election and the government would be represented by the Janadal Party, founded in late 1983.

The first date set for a general election was May 27 last year, when President Ershad also planned a presidential election.

The second was December 8, but each time the government decided not to go ahead in view of the boycotts.

Mr. Nirmal Sen, who leads the Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Party within the 15-Party Alliance, said that the government was bound to postpone the polls "because without opposition participation, the election will have no credibility".

Political analysts saw the postponement of the nomination deadline, and any postponement of the election, as a victory for the opposition.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the 15-Party Alliance, today said a general election could not be free and fair unless the president distanced himself from Janadal, which was set up with his support.

Gandhi Speaks on Punjab Problem in Public Meetings

Akalis Should Condemn Terrorism

BK231035 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said that forces of disintegration are still at work in the country. Addressing public meetings in Muzaffarnagar and Hardwar in Uttar Pradesh today, he said that the Akalis have not accepted two suggestions put forward by the government for resumption of talks on resolving the Punjab tangle. The conditions were that the demands related to Punjab should be confined within the constitutional framework and that the Akalis should condemn terrorism. Mr Gandhi asked the Akalis to demonstrate by their action that there is a difference between them and terrorists.

Asks for Sikh Help

BK240354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has asked the Sikh community to help the government in finding a solution to the Punjab problem. Addressing a series of public meetings in Uttar Pradesh and Madya Pradesh yesterday, he said the Akali Dal is adopting an uncooperative attitude. Mr Gandhi regretted that the Akalis have decided to provide legal aid to the hijackers of the Indian Airlines planes who are to be tried in Pakistan.

Mr Gandhi cautioned the people that forces of disintegration are still active inside and outside the country and called upon them to frustrate their designs. He said some foreign powers have not liked the speedy progress made by India.

Gandhi Mentions Tamil Refugees, Joint Patrols

BK240319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has urged the Sri Lankan Government to create a congenial atmosphere so that Tamil refugees can return to the island. He was addressing newsmen at Bareilly airport yesterday. According to PTI, Mr Gandhi said that the current situation does not warrant joint patrolling by Indian and Sri Lankan vessels.

French Presidential Envoy Meets Gandhi 22 Feb

BK231258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Jacques Mitterrand, the special envoy of the president of France, met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi last night. The envoy conveyed a personal message from President Mitterrand. An official spokesman said today that the meeting was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The envoy is expected to leave the capital later tonight.

Meanwhile, the All India Radio correspondent understands that India has agreed to the proposal of the French Government to appoint Mr Jean-Bernard Marimee as the next ambassador to India. Mr Marimee is at present the French ambassador in Canberra. The present French ambassador in India, Mr Serge Boidevaiz, is expected to leave New Delhi soon. The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, gave him the customary farewell lunch on Wednesday [20 February].

Gandhi Scheduled To Visit U.S., France in June

BK221616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will visit France, Algeria, the United States, and Egypt in June this year. Announcing the 14-day tour program, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the prime minister will be paying a visit to France from 6 June at the invitation of the French president, Mr Mitterrand. During his stay in that country, Mr Gandhi will take part in the inauguration of the Festival of India. He will leave France on the 10th for a 1-day visit to Algeria at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid.

On the 11th the prime minister will leave Algiers for Washington on an official visit to the United States. During his stay in the United States, Mr Rajiv Gandhi will participate in the inaugural function of the Festival of India. On 15 June, the prime minister will leave for Cairo. Mr Gandhi will be in Egypt on the 16th and 17th. He will then proceed to Geneva where he will address the annual general conference of the International Labor Organization. The director general of the ILO, Mr Blanchard, has invited Mr Gandhi to address the conference. The prime minister will return to New Delhi on the 19th.

Asked about the prime minister's proposed visit to the Soviet Union, the spokesman said the government is considering dates suitable to both countries.

Further on Police Killing of Rajasthan Official

Gandhi Accepts Resignation

HK230818 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 23 (AFP) — A top Congress (I) Party official is to resign over the police killing of a former prince in Rajasthan, which could hurt the ruling party in a state election, press reports said today.

Some 25,000 people attended the funeral of the popular prince turned opposition politician yesterday, as rioters set on fire four police cars and stoned police, the reports said. The press reports said Premier Rajiv Gandhi had accepted an offer to resign by State Chief Minister Shiv Charan Mathur, who had said he took moral responsibility for the killing.

Police have said they shot dead the former Prince of Bharatpur on Thursday, after he fired at them as he was about to be arrested at Deeg, a market village near Bharat town. But local people insisted there had been no clash before police shot Mr Man Singh, who was a British-trained engineer, *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* and other newspapers said. He was to be arrested for

ramming his jeep into the stationary helicopter of Mr Mathur when the chief minister was campaigning in the prince's constituency earlier this week, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. Mr Mathur was not in the helicopter, which was damaged.

That incident followed allegations that ruling party activists had torn down election posters and banners put up by Mr Man Singh's supporters. Rajasthan is one of 11 states going to the polls from March 2-March 5 in state elections.

The killing of the prince, and two of his aides shot dead at the same time, could seriously affect Congress (I)'s chances in the northwestern desert state election, newspapers said. Traders refused to open for business yesterday in protest against the killing, (PTI) said. Congress (I) won every seat in the state in the last federal general election in December. Mr Man Singh, 64, had been an independent legislator in the Rajasthan assembly since 1952, when India held its first post-independence state elections, and was to have stood again next month. He was one of only two Rajasthan state legislators who had been a member continuously since 1952.

New Minister Sworn In

BK231602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Mr Heera Lal Deo Pura has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Rajasthan. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan [Governor House] in Jaipur a short while ago. Mr Deo Pura was revenue minister in Mr Shiv Charan Mathur's cabinet. The state Governor, Mr O.P. Mehra, had asked him earlier this evening to form a new ministry following the acceptance of Mr Mathur's resignation as chief minister.

President on Superpower Rivalry in Indian Ocean

BK231636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The president has today dedicated to the nation the freedom fighters memorial in the cellular jail at Port Blair. Earlier, the president expressed concern over the increasing superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean and the sophisticated arms buildup in the neighboring countries. Addressing defense personnel at INS [Indian Naval Ship] (Talwar), Port Blair, this morning, he said the country should be prepared to face any eventuality. He said the country cannot progress unless it is prepared to defend its sovereignty and integrity. The president said India does not want its neighbors to be weak, but certain powers do not want our neighbors to be friendly with us.

Soviet Official Leaves After Economic Talks

BK231643 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Soviet state committee for foreign economic relations, Mr V.I. Litvinenko, has had talks with Indian leaders in New Delhi for a review of the economic cooperation between the two countreis. Mr Litvinenko, who is also deputy cochairman of the Indo-Soviet joint commission, is returning to Moscow tonight after a week's visit to this country. His visit was in preparation for the next joint commission meeting dates for which will be finalized shortly. Its last meeting was held in December 1983.

Cultural, Scientific Pact Signed With USSR

BK170449 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a program of cultural, scientific and educational exchanges for the next financial year.

The additional secretary in the Department of Culture, Dr Mrs Kapila Vatsyayan, signed the agreement on behalf of the Indian Government, while Mr Yuriy A. Kirichenko, head of the cultural relations department of the Soviet Union, signed for his country. The program envisages continued cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education, science, art, culture, and sports through exchanges of scholars, teachers, writers and artists. It also provides institutional links between universities and institutions of higher learning in specified fields.

Arrest of BBC Correspondent in Pakistan Reported

BK240344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] In Pakistan, authorities arrested in Karachi last night a journalist, Mr Iqbal Jaffery, who reports for BBC. More than 1,000 people have been arrested in Pakistan prior to tomorrow's general elections.

Correspondent Released

BK241625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] A Pakistani journalist, Mr Iqbal Jaffery, who reports for the BBC from Karachi, was arrested from his house last night. He was, however, released this morning after questioning. Police gave no reason for his arrest.

According to reports troops have begun patrolling the streets of Karachi, where the support for election boycott is the strongest. While the elections to the 237-member National Assembly are to be held tomorrow, members to the provincial assemblies will be elected on Thursday.

Pakistani Opposition Party Chief, 800 Arrested

BK211403 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] In Pakistan, more than 800 people have been arrested to prevent them from disrupting the general elections on Monday and provincial polls 3 days later. A government spokesman said

in Islamabad that about 370 opponents of the poll have been arrested in recent weeks.

In Karachi, a number of people have been arrested in the past 4 days for similar reasons. Meanwhile, electioneering has reached the climax and will end on Saturday. Since all the (?opposition) leaders and their prominent workers had been arrested or detained, authorities have taken measures to counter attempts at disrupting the polls.

The chief of the Tehrik-e Istiqlal party, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, who was arrested in Karachi and sent back to Peshawar, said that the arrests of the political parties are being conducted to facilitate mass-scale rigging in the poll.

'More Than 7,000' Tamil Refugees Arrive

BK230915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] More than 7,000 Sri Lanka Tamil refugees have arrived at Rameswaram in recent weeks. The district collector of Ramanathpuram told newsmen that of them, about 3,500 have been sent to Pudukottai, Tiruchirappalli, Tanjavur, Tirunelveli, Chingleput, Madurai, and Dharmapuri Districts. He said essential items like firewood and clothes, besides monetary assistance, are being provided to the refugees.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Army is reported to be sealing the houses abandoned by Tamils in northern Sri Lanka for the proposed settlement of armed Sinhalese in them. The refugees told PTI that the armymen have occupied the houses in the fishermen's village of Pesalai whose residents have fled to India. They said four villages in northern Sri Lanka have been abandoned by its residents fearing torture and harassment by security forces.

Official Visits Tamil Refugee Camp in Rameswaram

BK230411 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The union minister of state for women and social welfare, Mrs Maragatham Chandrashekhar, went round the camps in Rameswaram where the Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka have been sheltered. Meanwhile, the flow of refugees is continuing. More than 350 of them arrived at Rameswaram yesterday by boats. UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, quoting some Sri Lanka Tamil refugees, says four villages in northern Sri Lanka have been abandoned by its residents fearing torture and harassment by the security forces.

3 Killed in Police Firing, Violence in Deeg

BK241617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Three persons were killed and some others injured when police opened fire to disperse a violent crowd in the Deeg town of Bharatpur District today. According to an official spokesman, the firing took place when the crowd gheraoed [encircled] the local dak bangalow [official quarter] where senior police officers were camping. The crowd indulged in heavy stone pelting which resulted in injuries to about 20 police personnel, including at a DIG [deputy inspector general]. A police truck and some vehicles were burnt in the incident. The dak bangalow was also damaged.

The spokesman said that Rashtriya Janata Party leader Mr Raj Narain earlier addressed a public meeting at Deeg. After the meeting the crowd reached the dak bangalow and turned violent.

In Bharatpur also, a crowd today attacked the city kotwali [police station] and another police post. The crowd indulged in heavy stone throwing and burnt a police jeep. The police had to lathi [baton] charge to disperse the crowd. Prohibitory orders have been promulgated in Deeg and Bharatpur following the incidents. The state director general of police has left for Deeg. The chief minister has expressed deep anguish over the incident. He has sanctioned 5,000 rupees to the next of kin of those killed in today's firing. The chief minister and the union minister of state for steel, Mr Natwar Singh, have appealed to the people to maintain peace.

Police Official Suspended

BK250447 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpts] In Rajasthan, police opened fire to disperse a violent mob in Deeg town of Bharatpur district yesterday. The deputy superintendent of police, Mr Kantsingh Bhatti, has been suspended.

Meeting on Namibia Scheduled for April in Delhi

BK231450 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The extraordinary session on nonaligned foreign ministers on Namibia will be held in New Delhi for 3 days from 16 April this year. The venue and the dates of the conference were approved by the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau at a meeting at the United Nations yesterday. The Indian ambassador to the United Nations, Mr N. Krishnan, presided.

Zia Addresses Nation on Eve of Elections

BK241745 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1409 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Pakistan President Ziaul Haq's 24 February address to nation —live]

[Text] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. My speech today concerns the elections that begin tomorrow. I shall describe briefly some points about the background and the importance of the elections, and about the leadership that will emerge as a result of these elections. I shall make an announcement about the constitutional amendments — which some people might have been expecting today — after a few days, God willing. We have taken a long time to arrive at these elections. We tried twice before to hold elections, but were unsuccessful. You are fully aware of the reasons for this. I hope the attempt being made now will, God willing, certainly meet with success. The electioneering for this balloting has been completed. The enthusiasm shown by the candidates and voters is commendable. The people are very interested in the election; this has been demonstrated during the electioneering from Khyber to Karachi and from Chitral to Gwadar. God willing, this interest will also be shown tomorrow when voters go to the polling stations in large numbers and cast their votes in the general elections in a free and impartial atmosphere, not seen for a long time.

At this time, my mind naturally goes back to past elections; I recall the past general elections in Pakistan's history. As a result of those elections, the country was caught up in a serious crisis instead of gaining political stability. The first general elections were held in December 1970 under martial law and were conducted by a previous government. The people and political parties in both parts of the country actively participated in those elections and, at least within the boundaries of current Pakistan, those elections were held in a very free and fair manner. The people still speak well of those elections. But one has to think about the happenings after those elections. A political party then refused to accept the majority gained by another party. The party, which could not gain a majority, ruled out the possibility of sitting on opposition benches. The party leader obstructed the holding of National Assembly sessions and announced that he would break the legs of the assembly members who attended the session; and if any scheme for transferring power was made by ignoring him and his party, then he would set fire from Khyber to Karachi.

I feel pained and unhappy about mentioning these events. It is not my habit to cast aspersions on any person or any party, nor do I attack anyone's personality; but this is a tragic and unforgettable chapter of our history which, despite its bitterness, cannot be forgotten or removed from the pages of history. Now you have to think about what was the outcome of that greed for power. The slogan of We are on One Side, You Another was raised and this led us nowhere. The foolish quarrel over sharing power left us in a difficult situation. Instead of going into details, I will say only that this blind craze for power divided Pakistan — the result of the dreams of Pakistan's philospher, the great poet Iqbal, and the founder of Pakistan, Qaide-I-Aazam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah — into two parts.

Again in the general elections of 1977, the ruling party tried to turn the election result in its favor by indulging in widespread rigging. But the Pakistani people, whose political awareness is very sharp, considered this process to be an attack on their personal prestige and (? took) it as a violation of the sanctity of their vote, and then launched a massive movement against the then government. Normal life was disrupted and sabotage activities started everywhere. The country reached the threshhold of civil war and the armed forces had to take power into their own hands to control the situation in the country.

Now think about the outcome of those elections. You will see many things. You will find that at one time the elections were held in a free and fair manner, but the party that gained the majority was stopped from coming into power. The second time, a ruling party rigged the elections to remain in power at all costs and despite popular protest. The so-called popular government refused to relinquish power or to hold elections again. The country fell into the dark ravine of civil war and ultimately was divided into two parts as a result of greed for power. Another time, the country had reached the threshhold of a civil war as a result of greed for power but the armed forces saved the country from further harm through armed intervention.

The elections that are going to be held now are completely different from the former general elections. It is not their only unique feature that they are being held on a nonpartisan basis, but their real feature is that the government is not involved in them. Thus, if elections are considered to be the means for acquiring power, then the government this time is not participating in this run for power. It is completely neutral. It has no particular candidate, it has no party and it has no personal interest. All the candidates are its own candidates and the government hopes for the success of each one who is really eligible and who enjoys the people's support. The second characteristic of these elections is that even after them, the present government or the head of the government will have no greed. You might have noticed in the past that although the head of state somehow held the elections in a free and fair manner, after the elections he did not let the power slip from his pocket. Therefore, the process of transferring power did not start sincerely as a result of elections.

But the current situation is completely different. Our intentions, by the grace of God, are clear. The head of the present government does not have to worry at all about losing his seat. He has no greed, he has no sorrow about what will happen after the elections. This is because you gave him your vote of confidence 2 months ago. You conferred on him your mandate and gave him the authority to serve you for another 5 years. You have already seen the benefits of the referendum.

So, the scheduled elections will not only be free and impartial; but even after them, there will be no obstacle in the transfer of power, God willing. I myself an no victim of power-hunger, nor shall I allow power-crazy elements to play with the country's law and order and security, as in 1970 or 1977.

However, it is also a fact that people have a lot of misgivings due to past bitter experiences. Several intelligent and patriotic people told me a number of times before the elections: Mr General,

why are you talking about elections again and again? Forget this idea of going down this path because only snakes are there. But I believe that snakes do not live in the election alleys; they are in our minds -- with personal greed and power-craziness. If we control these snakes, then the elections can prove to be a boon to the country. Moreover, in the present era, it is impossible to escape from them. Historical facts and experiences testify that you can achieve nothing by excluding the people, even though you have very nice programs and very good intentions. It is necessary to ensure their participation, cooperation and support in every case and at every level. And this idea is not today's idea, it is quite an old thought.

You might recall that 5 or 6 years ago, when I felt that the situation would not allow us to be free from the country's affairs for quite a bit more time, we then sought ways to obtain the people's participation. The first such way was the establishment of local bodies in 1979. These bodies not only worked as useful links between the government and people for 4 years, but also performed noticeable developmental activities in their respective areas. After the next elections in 1983, these bodies served the people again in a very satisfactory manner. In addition to these bodies, the provincial councils at provincial level and the Federal Advisory Council at the federal level performed their duties of (?federalism) participation and consultation in accordance with their capability and authority. They held debates on a number of important issues without any hesistation and gave their views and suggestions to the government.

Now we are entering the era of elected assemblies, which begins with tomorrow's elections. The electorate -- or the voters -- hold them to be of prime importance because the purpose of elections cannot be fulfilled without their wholehearted participation. Therefore, I would like to say -- for the information of each and every voter, and I mentioned this during the referendum also -- that voting is not merely a secular affair, but a religious duty. We have to fully understand that Islamic religious tenets involve all aspects of our life. This includes politics. So, if you are a voter, you cannot stay home on election day. You must go to the polling booth to vote for the most eligible person. It is such a responsibility that avoiding it is tantamount to avoiding the commands of God. You should also remember that voting is not just your right, but also the nation's trust to you. And voting is equal to giving evidence. In simple terms, it means that you cannot keep the nation's trust to yourself on election day. It is imperative that you give it to the persons who are worthy of it. And when you cast your vote in the ballot box, it will be like your giving evidence before God that in your opinion the person is capable of fulfilling the responsibility for which you elected him. That is, it should not be influenced by anyone's wealth, personal relations or undue favor. But they should express their views in accordance with the voice of their conscience. Therefore, I would like to appeal to all voters throughout the country to come to the polls to restore the nation's trust tomorrow morning and, by casting the ballots in accordance with their conscience in a free and just atmosphere, give testimony as to those who are capable and worthy of leading them. I hope that the people who enthusiastically and overwhelmingly participated in the peaceful election campaign will similarly participate in tomorrow's general elections and make them successful.

I also expect the administration and law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order at all costs tomorrow and on 28 February during national and provincial assemblies' elections, and will not allow any individual, group or so-called political alliance to stop people from participating in the elections, to obstruct polling or to disrupt general law and order. Pakistan's Armed Forces, as in the past, are ready to support the administration and, God willing, they will extend every assistance to the nation in passing through the election process successfully. I, as the head of the state and government, assure the candidates and voters, as I have stated earlier, that the government will remain neutral in every respect in these elections. We have only one objective and that is for the elections to be held in a free, just and peaceful atmosphere so that the right representatives of the people come to the fore after the election and assume their responsibilities.

I know that in tomorrow's elections, in addition to members of local bodies and Federal Advisory Council, some ministers are also participating. And some quarters proposed during the campaigning that ministers should be relieved of their ministries before the elections. But after appropriate deliberation and consultations with my colleagues, I have decided they should participate in tomorrow's elections only as ministers because, first they are not taking any undue advantage of being ministers, and I hope they will not do so. Second, as ministers, it is not that easy to take part and succeed in elections. Although a minister may carry some weight by virtue of his position, at the same time he becomes the target of all sorts of criticism for being a member of the government.

Therefore, the ministers will participate in tomorrow's elections with the total advantages and disadvantages of their ministership. Our blessings are with them. It is my prayer that these colleagues of ours and other (?persons) running in the elections will enter the assembly by gaining the people's support and will play their role in state affairs. I want to make a special request to the persons running in the elections: that those who win should first thank Almighty God and then consider the blessing and grace of God inherent in their success with all humility, and should not cast aside their sense and wisdom out of excitement over their success. They should refrain from all types of hooliganism, adopt a serious and honorable attitude, and try to progress along with all people of the area, including their adversaries. And the unsuccessful candidates should also demonstrate the magnanimity of their heart, as they have only been defeated in an election -- it is not a matter of life and death. They tried but could not achieve people's adequate support. The next time, the people might reassess their character and hopefully vote in their favor. Therefore, they should demonstrate the magnanimity of their heart and congratulate their opponents on their success. They should forget the temporary bitterness of elections and create an atmosphere of law and order and mutual cooperation in their respective areas. This is the true Islamic way.

You might have noticed that the election commission has arranged for the holding of clean and fair elections through a great deal of work and dedication, and I am fully confident that a very clean leadership will emerge from the elections, God willing. These elected members will not represent any political party or group, but the eople, who are the real capital and real strength of the country. I pray to God that He may use the

elections as a means for bringing stability, progress, and prosperity to the country and to the nation. Amen! Long live Pakistan!

Zia on Elections, Martial Law

BK250622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that elections for the National Assembly being held today are an historic event. These elections are a first major step toward transferring power from the military regime to the elected representatives of the people. He said this to foreign correspondents while addressing them in Rawalpindi last night. He expressed hope that elections will be peaceful, and said that all arrangements possible for this purpose have been made.

The president said that as a result of the elections the people of Pakistan will get an Islamic form of government which will be as democratic as democratic government can be. He said he is hopeful that through this process, he will be able to fully meet the expectations of the people. As regards the turnout of voters at the polling stations, he said they will display the same enthusiasm they showed during the electioneering. It is expected that polling will be between 40 and 50 percent, which is a good percentage.

Answering questions on proposed amendments to the constitution, he said these will be announced within a few days. He also said that the 1973 Constitution had not been abrogated but only kept in abeyance. The spirit of the constitution will not be altered.

In reply to a question, he said we have to implement an evolutionary program for total transfer of power from a military system of government to a civilian system of government. He said after the restoration of the 1973 Constitution, which will take a few months, martial law will be lifted in phases. The new parliament will have absolute powers to reject, modify or alter the amendments to the Constitution made by him.

In reply to a question he said the political parties had a role to play, and the new parliament will make a decision in this connection.

In reply to another question, the president said he will nominate a prime minister who according to his judgment and opinion enjoyed the confidence of the majority of the parliament.

The president said that after the elections the next important step will be a session of the National Assembly on 23 March. The National Assembly will meet a few days earlier to elect a speaker, deputy speaker, and senate members. After this, the meeting of both houses will be held on 23 March. He said it is necessary to continue martial law for some time to give stability to the new government.

In reply to a question, he said only 369 persons were taken into custody or kept under house arrest. Soon after completing the elections these people will be released.

Reportage on 25 Feb National Assembly Elections

Election Literature Distributors Sentenced

BK231715 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] In Karachi today, the martial law authorities sentenced five persons for distributing literature inciting the public against elections and awarded them various terms of imprisonment ranging from 6 months to 1 year and fines ranging from 7,000 rupees to 15,000 rupees.

AFP Report Previews Elections

HK221422 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 22 Feb 85

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 22 (AFP) — No surprises are expected in Monday's elections in Pakistan, where representatives of the old feudal families and the wealthy middle classes have a clear field, without the opposition taking part, and most of its leaders under arrest.

Out of the 1,056 candidates running for 207 seats in the National Assembly, the most conservative and apolitical stand the best chance of winning.

More than 200 are local representatives elected under the civilian government of President Zulfakir Ali Bhutto or associated with the present regime.

Nearly half the 250 members of the Federal Consultative Council nominated by General Mohammed Ziaul Haq three years ago are seeking popular endorsement, along with 45 ministers and former federal or provincial ministers.

According to the official figures, nearly 300 candidates have belonged to a political party, from which they have been thrown out because of the opposition's decision to boycott the poll on the grounds that it will not restore the 1973 constitution, suspended by General Zia in 1977.

Most of these are opportunists, who have sought election in the past to retain their local influence. They could well attract a sizeable vote from their supporters, thereby lessening the impact of the opposition-led boycott.

With the exception of cities like Lahore and Karachi, where businessmen and well-heeled lawyers hope to fill the gaps left by the big names in Pakistani politics, the electoral battle is being played out on the lines of family feuds in this country, where the social structure is reminiscent of the middle ages.

In the rich province of Punjab, which has 116 seats, the big feudal families are fighting it out in their traditional strongholds: the Legharis against the Mazaris at Dera Ghazi Khan, the Gilanis against the Quereshis at Multan, and so it goes on.

Where no single family dominates public life, then it is down to the clans of "bradaris", groups of influential families or group-

ings with shared business interests or shared religion. Nearly 500 candidates have stood down after bargains struck between clans on the lines of: "I won't stand against your brother for this seat if you let my son have the constituency next door".

The return of the feudal families is particularly striking in the tiny province of Baluchistan, where the Sardars and the Nawabs are expected to walk off easily with all 11 seats. The same goes for Sind, where the big landowning family, the Zamindars, dominate the scene. In such backward regions, whole villages will vote for their local feudal lord, particularly if he has the backing of the pir, the local holy man, who is the real deciding factor at election time.

Six of the 12 ministers in the federal government face possible defeat because of organised opposition by these powerful families, among them Defence Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur, heir of one of the oldest families in Sind.

Mr. Talpur, who has been tipped as a possible prime minister if he gets elected, faces a strong challenge foom the Provincial Education Minister Abdul Majid Abid.

Political parties, all banned for the past six years, have not the right to put up candidates. However, the tiny religious Jambat-I-Islami Party, which supports the military regime, hopes to win a few seats for the first time. Its showing will be a very good test of the popularity of religious campaigning among Pakistan's population of more than 90 percent Moslems.

Only 12 women are standing, of which only one, Syeda Abida Hussain, is seriously expected to win, in the lower Punjab.

Aside from the 207 seats up for election, 20 more have been set aside for women alone and 10 for representatives of religious minorities — Christians, Hindus, Parsis, Sikhs etc — on condition that they do not interfere in politics.

BBC Karachi Correspondent Jailed

BK241123 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Hundreds of people have been arrested in Pakistan as the military government tries to ensure that Monday's nonparty elections pass off without incident. Among the latest to be put in jail is a Pakistani journalist, Mr Iqbal Jaffery, who is the correspondent in Karachi for the BBC and for *TIME* magazine. While 2 dozen police waited outside his home, Mr Jaffery managed to phone the BBC correspondent in Islamabad, Alex Brodie, who has filed this dispatch.

[Begin recording] Shortly after midnight on Saturday night-Sunday morning, three or four jeep loads of police arrived at Iqbal Jaffery's home. He was told he was to be detained. In the few minutes he was given to change his clothes, he rang the BBC correspondent in Islamabad, myself. He told me he asked for but was shown no warrant nor given any reason for his arrest. He said he was told he was to be taken to prison. His wife confirmed a few minutes later that he had been taken away. The regime's information secretary, Lieutenant General Mujibur Rahman, contacted by telephone, said he knew nothing of the arrest. It was a matter for the provincial authorities, he said. I think that Jaffery must have done something.

In the run up to Monday's election the military regime has detained hundreds of its opponents who had been calling for a boycott of the election. The entire opposition political leadership, bar one, who is under heavy surveillance, are in detention. Campaigning for the boycott of the election is a crime. The government spokesman has said that the detainees had either already broken that law or could be expected to. Pakistani newspapers are under instructions not to publish the views of any of the opposition, only those who are actually standing for election. The foreign press for which Iqbal Jaffery works is under no such restraints.

According to several sources, the government has become increasingly concerned at the way it is depicted in the foreign press. Stinging editorials in some conservative publications in the West have hurt. The ability of the BBC to accurately report the election in the south of Pakistan will be severely impaired if its correspondent there, Iqbal Jaffery, remains in detention. [end recording]

Voting 'Peaceful,' Turnout 'Sizable'

BK250856 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] With more than half of the voting time in the National Assembly election having elapsed, a sizable number of voters are reported to have cast their votes across the country. About 4 hours are remaining in the polling and people who are yet to cast their vote have gathered at the polling stations. Men and women voters in long lines at the polling stations [break in transmission]. These include men and women from minority communities. Officially, the polling ends at 1700. But all those voters who enter the polling station premises by 1700 will be allowed to vote.

President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, accompanied by his wife, cast his vote in Rawalpindi this morning. He inspected polling camps set up by various candidates who described polling arrangements as excellent. The president mixed with the large number of people present at the polling camps and hoped that the people are satisfied with the voting arrangements.

Earlier, while talking to newsmen briefly, the president was told that about 35 percent of votes have been cast at various polling stations in the city and cantonment areas. The president said this shows that our judgement regarding voting was correct and the people support the establishment of an Islamic system in the country. The polling is taking place in a peaceful and impartial manner, establishing a healthy tradition.

Radio Pakistan's Karachi correspondent says that in the city's various election constituencies a good number of voters have cast their votes and the voting rate is continuously inceasing. Radio Pakistan's Hyderabad correspondent who visited (Hatri) Chando Aghan, Chando Mirmahmud and (Seri) reports that there are long lines of voters waiting to vote. Radio Pakistan's Sukkur reports that the people are showing great enthusiasm in exercis-

ing their right of franchise. Long lines outside men's and women's polling stations have been formed and the people are awaiting their turn. Our correspondent reports from Thatta that the polling process both in rural and urban areas is continuing with speed and discipline. The correspondent visited various polling stations of (Bhagichi), Gharo, Guju, Walidad, Jokhia, Thatta town and Saidpur in two constituencies of the Thatta town and reports that a large number of people are casting their votes. A large number of women voters could be seen in long lines at women's polling stations. Our Khairpur correspondent reports that the polling in Sukkur division is continuing with speed, and in a peaceful, disciplined manner.

Our correspondent reports that a sizable number of people have voted in Lahore. A member of the election commission from Punjab and the provincial election commissioner visited various polling stations in the city to assess the voting arrangements and facilities provided to the voters.

In Peshawar, the Northwest Frontier Province governor, Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, after casting his vote at a polling station this morning, told newsmen that a large number of people will participate in the elections. Long lines of voters at the polling stations clearly reflect this. He expressed satisfaction at the poll arrangements and at the fact that no untoward incident has been reported so far from anywhere. Radio Pakistan's Peshawar correspondent reports that in light of the large number of people participating in the elections most of business centers and markets are closed in the Peshawar city and cantonment area. After visiting Abbottabad and Manshera districts and Attock and Hassan Abdal, our Abbottabad correspondent reports that polling is progressing with speed and discipline. Similar reports have been received from the District of Kohistan.

In Quetta, Baluchistan Governor Lieutenant General K.K. Afridi visited three polling stations and cast his vote at one of these stations. Later, talking to newsmen, he expressed satisfaction at the pace of polling and poll arrangements throughout the province, and voting is ongoing in a disciplined manner.

Police Disperse Peshawar Rally

HK251116 Hong Kong AFP in English 1057 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 25 (AFP) — About a dozen people were arrested in the northwestern town of Peshawar today, after opposition parties staged a protest rally against today's nationwide elections.

Sources in Peshawar said that police used batons to disperse an anti-election procession by the leading opposition coalition, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

That group, like other organized opposition parties, was not to take part in the election campaign, and called for a boycott of the vote. Around Peshawar there has also been discontent over the government's programme to destroy opium poppies, because, farmers say, they are not getting adequate compensation.

There were no reports of incidents elsewhere in the country, and turnout was reportedly mixed in voting for a new 237-member assembly. More than 1,000 candidates, most of them individuals with loose ties to civic and religious groups, are running.

Some districts reported little apparent interest in the vote, for which the 11 opposition parties were not allowed to present candidates, and for which most opposition leaders were detained. But long queues were reported at other polling stations.

Turnout in prosperous or middle class neighborhoods of cities was generally low, election observers said. About 10 to 15 percent of eligible voters had turned up in the first three hours.

However, at polling stations in the suburbs of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, there were long queues of voters, despite the boycott call.

For example, in Dhamiyal, about 30 kms (20 miles) from Islamabad, 300 votes had been cast in the first two hours, of a total of 2,000 votes. The presiding officer expected a turnout of about 50 percent.

One official said that the elections appeared to have stirred more interest than the referendum held last December, in which General Zia's rule was extended for another five years.

Reports from smaller provinces, such as Sind and the North West Frontier Province, said that participation was low in the first few hours, while in the rural Punjab and in some closely contested constituencies voting was heavy.

The trend so far indicated a 20-30 percent participation in Sind and North West Frontier Provinces, while in the Punjab it could reach the government's hopes for 40 percent.

Polling was generally orderly. By midday today, no incident was reported, although elaborate security arrangements had been made.

Troops patrolled around polling stations with radio vehicles, and polling officers were empowered to take immediate disciplinary steps against anyone accused of irregularities.

Voting will end around 5 p.m. (1200 GMT) and first results are likely to be known late in the evening. Official figures will be announced in a few days.

200 Soviet-Karmal Soldiers Killed in Afghanistan

BK231614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce clashes between the Soviet-Karmal forces and mujahidin in Parwan, Kapisa, and Baghlan Provinces.

About 200 Soviet-Karmal soldiers are said to have been killed during encounters in Baghlan and Kapisa Provinces. Some 30 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were also killed near Baghlan city.

The mujahidin also damaged 9 tanks and 21 military vehicles in (Taghar) and (Najrab) areas of Kapisa Province.

Another report says that the mujahidin killed five Soviet-Karmal soldiers in a surprise attack on a security post at Ghazni airport on 7 February. In Paktia Province, the mujahidin attacked forces going to Khowst from Gardez and killed a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers.

Mujahidin Attack in Konar

BK240645 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] According to reports, about 200 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed in encounters with mujahidin in Konar Province of Afghanistan. The reports say that mujahidin attacked a military convoy advancing toward Barikowt and forced it to retreat. In the clashes many civilian and military vehicles were damaged.

Iraqi Minister 'Impressed' With Progress

GF221502 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 85 p 9

[Report on interview with 'Abd al-Wahhab Mehmud 'Abdallah, Iraqi minister for irrigation, with ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) correspondent in Islamabad on 16 February]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb. 16: Mr. 'Abd al-Wahhab Mehmud 'Abdallah, minister for irrigation of the Republic of Iraq, said here today that he was deeply impressed by the tremendous progress made in Pakistan during the last few years.

In an interview with the APP, the Iraqi minister who is heading his country's delegation in the fourth session of Pakistan-Iraq Joint Ministerial Commission in Islamabad, said that this was his third visit to Pakistan, the first was in 1975 and he was pleased to see significant development in the brotherly country.

Mr Wahhab described his meeting with Finance Minister Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, ministers and senior officials as 'very useful' and said the two sub-committees, one relating to the economic relations and technical assistance, and the other for trade between the two countries will finalise specific recommendations in this respect.

He termed the outcome of the three last sessions of the Joint Ministerial Commission as positive and a step forward towards intensifying co-operation among the two brotherly countries which were bound by the Islamic ties of religion and history.

The Iraqi minister was all praise for Pakistani engineers, technicians and workers who, he said, had made remarkable contribution to the development of Iraq. He said that some 15,000 Pakistani workers were in Iraq and they were given maximum facilities by the Iraqi Government. He said Pakistan and Iraq have close co-operation in the irrigation sector and scores of engineers and contracting firms were contributing their best efforts to the progress of Iraq.

In reply to a question, the minister said that the two working groups constituted by the Pak-Iraq Joint Ministerial Commission would draw a comprehensive framework for bolstering economic relations, trade and providing technical assistance between the two countries. He said that areas of co-operation had already been identified and the groups were busy in giving final shape to their recommendations.

SRI LANKA

Premadasa on India Not Barring 'Terrorists'

BK241125 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] India has not done anything to prevent terrorists, who are engaged in violent acts in Sri Lanka, from entering Indian territory. However, it has put up a barbed wire fence along its border with Bangladesh to stop illegal immigrants. So said Prime Minister R. Premadasa at a ceremony at Tambuttegama yesterday where he handed over the identity cards to youths of the newly formed national defense force in the Kalawewa electorate.

Mr Premadasa asked whether India's contradictory actions were the means which safeguarded its friendship with Sri Lanka. [sentence as heard] He also said that those who are fleeing this country to India were receiving food and shelter in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu government is also considering providing financial assistance to them. Terrorism has nothing to do with political langaguage or fundamental rights. The objective of the terrorists is to destroy the unity, sovereignty, and democracy in Sri Lanka to set up a Marxist government. This, the prime minister added, was clear from the propaganda that is being broadcast illegally from South India over Eelam radio.

Meanwhile, at a ceremony held at the [words indistinct] church in Negombo yesterday, the national security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that the time had come for the Sinhala and Tamil communities to work together to win the hearts of each other. If we had any problem, we, as Sri Lankans, should solve them ourselves. Foreign mediation was not necessary to such solution. If the Tamil community had any problems, those could not be resolved by acts of violence or through Eelam. It has already been proved that Eelam had become a dream. The former Tamil members of Parliament had personally stated that they were against Eelam. However, they publicly speak of Eelam. The present crisis had become worse because of this dual policy. Therefore, they should publicly state if they were against Eelam.

Mr Athulathmudali appealed to the Tamil people to win the hearts of the Sinhala and Muslim communities, not only by words but also through action.

Athulathmudali on Indian Aid

BK231204 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The extension of emergency was passed in Parliament yesterday with 126 members voting for and 1 against.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa, winding up the debate, said that those who had criticized him for what he said earlier were now saying the same thing. What he said earlier was being proved from day-to-day.

With regard to a question raised by the MP for Akmimana, (Richard Patirana) Mr Premadasa said that 98 police officers had so far been killed. The government had paid compensation of 150,000 rupees each to families of 65 of these police officers. Efforts were being made to establish beneficiaries so that families of other police officers could also be paid.

The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that the assistance the terrorists were receiving from Tamil Nadu should be stopped whether India would help us or not. There will be no political solution until Tamil Nadu cuts off supplies to terrorists. He called on all Tamil citizens to publicly disavow Eelam. Noting that it was clear from the speeches of opposition members that they were supporting the terrorists, Mr Athulathmudali asked the MP for Kalawana why the Sri Lanka Communist Party does not condemn the terrorists?

The leader of the opposition, Anura Bandaranaike, thanked the Indian prime minister for rejecting a request made by the TULF leader for Indian intervention in Sri Lanka. He added that neither the Indian Government nor the Indian prime minister had denied that Amirthalingam had made such a statement. He described Mr Amirthalingam's request as a treacherous one, as he was a Sri Lankan citizen and a politican.

Further on Kidnapping of Mullaittivu Officials

1 Killed, Other Released

BK241315 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Terrorists have shot dead the government agent of Mullaittivu District, K. Ganachandran, one of the two officials kidnapped in the Northern Province on Friday, and has released the other. Armed terrorists had seized Mr Ganachandran and an additional director of Planning, Kirupathilingam, from a bus at Paranthan. Security forces found Mr Ganachandran's body at Iranamadu junction in the Killinochchi District with gun shot wounds.

Mr Kirupathilingam was released in Jaffna yesterday. He has made a statement to the police in Jaffna.

AFP Report

HK240711 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Colombo, Feb 24 (AFP) — One of two government officials kidnapped by Tamil separatists Friday has been shot dead, official sources said today.

The body of K.K. Ganachandran, an official from the northeastern town of Mullaittivu, was found with gunshot wounds in the small northern town of Iranamadu last night, the sources said.

Mr. Ganachandran and another official from Mullaittivu, Kirupathilingam, from the Ministry of Plan Implementation, were kidnapped by Tamil separatists Friday while travelling by bus to the northern capital of Jaffna.

An armed gang of separatists stopped the bus and abducted the two officials, both of whom were Tamils. There was no official word on the fate of Mr. Kirupathilingam, but sources who asked

not to be named said it was believed he may have been released. No reason has been given for the abduction, nor has any separatist group claimed responsibility for it.

Meanwhile, *THE ISLAND* newspaper reported today that President Junius Jayewardene has instructed the attorney general to see whether the leader of the main Tamil political party can be charged for allegedly having urged India to intervene militarily in Sri Lanka. The attorney general is to report on whether charges could be framed under the sixth constitutional amendment which prohibits a citizen from advocating the division of the country either here or abroad, the newspaper said.

The leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), Appapillai Amirthalingam, was recently reported to have said in India that India should intervene in Sri Lanka to halt the alleged genocide of Tamils by the Army. The alleged remarks drew angry responses from both the government and the opposition which described them as "treacherous." The attorney-general has reportedly pointed out that it would be difficult to ascertain from sources other than the press whether Mr. Amirthalingam actually made the remarks.

The government has also decided to post a senior ambassador as deputy high commissioner in Madras, capital of the sourthern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, *THE WEEKEND* newspaper reported today. A senior diplomat now serving in a major European capital had been picked for the post, underlining the importance Colombo attaches to the Tamil Nadu link in Sri Lanka's separatist problem, the new paper said.

Sri Lanka has accused Tamil Nadu of harbouring separatist militants and providing facilities for militant Tamil groups waging a violent campaign to set up a separate state in Sri Lanka's north and east.

Meanwhile, security sources said that two truck loads of soldiers escaped injury in northern Sri Lanka yesterday when separatists prematurely blew up landmines on the Mannar-Iluppaikkadavai road. Two soldiers were slightly injured in the shootout that followed. The sources also confirmed newspaper reports that all eight people, including seven policemen, were killed in a landmine explosion north of Vavuniya on Friday. This brings the official death toll in separatist-related violence in about the past three months to over 600.

Tamils Forcing Exodus To Compel Intervention
HK230810 Hong Kong AFP in English 0726 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, Feb 23 (AFP) — Militant Tamil separatists are forcing Tamils in northern Sri Lanka to flee to India in a bid to compel Indian intervention in the country, security sources said today. The sources quoted captured separatists as having said under interrogation that separatist groups were forcing Tamil families in the north to flee across the narrow Palk Strait to refugee camps in southern India.

Some of the families were forced to flee under threat, while others were told that security forces would kill them if they stayed behind, the sources quoted the captured separatists as saying. The sources added that the separatists hoped the influx of Tamil refugees to India would compel Indian intervention in Sri Lanka.

Appapillai Amirthalingam, leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), recently appealed for Indian intervention in Sri Lanka to halt alleged attacks on Tamils by the Army. But Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has ruled out such an intervention. A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils are waging a violent campaign for a separate state in Sri Lanka's north and east.

Meanwhile, the sources added that eight separatists were arrested on Thursday night when security forces intercepted a boat in northern territorial waters. They said three separatists in the boat were killed in a shootout before the eight were captured.

Khomeyni Meets, Blesses Army, IRGC Personnel

LD251135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of the Khaibar Operation today a group of Army and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps brothers was received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief.

The imam of the ummah, addressing the group, said: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To begin with, I should tell you that it makes me happy when I see you. You are the ones who have given prestige to Islam and the country. Therefore, move forward with confidence and rest assured that the center of power, being God Almighty, looks upon you with kindness. Other powers are false; it is God's power that is eternal; it is God who has promised that if you work for him, He would make you victorious. There remains no doubt that you are now working for God Almighty, the Islamic country and Islam. Remember, the day the revolution was launched we lacked everything. We achieved our victory empty-handed. Thank God, we have now achieved a stage where we have become the focus of attention of all big powers, with all powers involved in the idea of how to approach this revolution.

Rest assured, there is nothing the powers can do. Do not entertain any anxiety; you are God's blessed creatures and will be victorious. Those who initiated their move at the very beginning started their task with confidence, being afraid of nothing.

The big powers have no idea of what is inherent in you, that is, faith in God. Consequently, they keep saying: We have missiles. Indeed, they do have missiles, but lack faith. You have faith, your hearts have allegiance to the source of light and power; it is an unbreakable bond. However, they fail to understand this. You have the blessing of the hidden imam. As you have faith, power and the hidden imam, therefore you have everything you need. You have divine support. You must safeguard this support. Since we do have such support, we are afraid of no one.

The Islamic Republic means Islam now. This is a precious trust which must be safeguarded. You must rest assured that you will be victorious while enjoying the attention of God. True victory is to have the attention of God Almighty, rather than occupying a country. Islam is something given to us in trust; we are duty-bound to protect it. Today, you are engaged in worshiping; your centers are the centers of worship. As individuals, pay hommage to Ka'aba and worship; you too are doing your worshipping in your trenches. You are defending Islam and God Almighty and Islam are invincible. I pray for you every night. God bless you and give you success. May God protect you, enabling you to serve the people. May you, God willing, remain with your heads held high. God bless you all.

Khomeyni Sees Court Officials, Envoy to Syria

LD241508 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] This morning Prosecutor General Saneh'i, accompanied by the public and revolution deputies and public prosecutors of Tehran, of the Armed Forces, and of the Revolution Guards Corps; by the religious judges of the revolution courts of the center, the Armed Forces, and the Shahid Qodusi [priest killed in 1984] Center; and by the supervisors of the narcotics, economic, and trade affairs courts, met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Mohtashemi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Syria, also met with Imam Khomeyni, the hope of the world's deprived, this morning.

Khamene'i Attends Cabinet Meeting on Cooperation

LD241809 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24 IRNA — The Cabinet met Saturday night in the presence of President 'Ali Khamene'i. At this meeting ways to implement the recent guidelines issued by Imam Khomeyni were discussed. Special emphasis was put by the Cabinet on choosing committed executive managers and other officials for handling the affairs of the country.

After studying various ways to promote a fuller cooperation between the people and the government, it was agreed that a definite plan should be drawn with the help of the experts for the realization of this objective.

Musavi Speaks on Budget Bill at Majlis Session

LD231342 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Correspondent report from 23 February Majlis session]

[Text] The Majlis in its open session first chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and then by deputy speaker Mr Mohammad Yazdi, continued its debate on the 1364 budget bill [1985-86]. Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, and a number of ministers and officials were present at this session. The Majlis Budget and Planning Commission spokesman came out in defense of the budget bill. Answering points raised by deputies opposing the bill, he elaborated on the positive points of the 1364 budget bill in connection with giving priority to agriculture, attending to villages and deprived areas, refraining from needless expenses, and subsidising vital goods needed by the public and the deprived people. The spokesman also compared the budget allocations to revolutionary institutions and various government departments and while comparing the figures with those of the 1362 budget, described the direction taken by next year's budget bill as positive in terms of paying more attention to development and social welfare and giving priority to the deprived regions of the country.

Following his speech, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi made a detailed speech in which he thanked the Budget and Planning Commission for its efforts and then discussed the general economic indexes to explain the activities of the country's executive officials. Noting the rate of inflation, he said: One of the important duties of government is to control inflation. In spite of our extraordinary economic and war conditions, we have been

very successful in this respect. The prime minister announced that the inflation rate was 11.9 percent.

Stressing that the rate of inflation must be brought down, he drew the attention of the Majlis deputies to the importance of this issue. He described this figure, compared with inflation rates in other countries, as very good.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi referred to the GNP noting its downward trend at the beginning of the revolution and announced that the GNP rate was 18.5 percent. He expressed hopes that with the fall in the inflation rate a great proportion of the component figures of the GNP would go up again. The prime minister also announced an increase in the constant rate of investment of 39 percent, describing this growth as indicative of the stability and strength of the Islamic Republic regime and the government's healthy policies. The prime minister also emphasized that with the new policies, the growth in the constant rate of investments would not only continue but would increase. Stressing that the increase in money in circulation has been brought under control which has contributed to controlling the rate of inflation. The prime minister added: In the first 6 months of the year 1363 [March 1984 - March 1985] compared with the end of the year 1362, the growth of money in circulation was less than 2 percent which could have been a contributing factor in controlling inflation rates.

Commenting on the relative increase in non-oil exports of 30 percent, the prime minister expressed hopes that with the legislation passed by the government to provide facilities for this, necessary effects would be felt. Pointing to the need to economize in expenditures and to reduce the budget deficit, which were raised in the speeches for and against the budget bill, the prime minister drew the attention of the deputies to what is expected from executive departments.

Referring to the recommendations made by the deputies to the country's executive officials, he added: Naturally, these recommendations increase the requests made by the people and render the government and the budget bill vulnerable. It would be desirable to expect each ministry to do only as much as it is capable of doing. Commenting on the budget deficit, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi said: We believe that not having a deficit or reducing it would be desirable since it can influence the rate of inflation and bring it down. It would also prevent many losses. In this connection, the prime minister referred to the country's extraordinary economic condition and the imposed war and asked for the capabilities of the government and its facilities to be considered when commenting on the need to reduce the budget deficit.

In another part of his speech, Mr Musavi commented on the issue of oil and non-dependence on it, and asked: Are we to stop producing this God-given wealth and not to sell it in order not to be dependent on it and thus stop preparing the ground for our freedom and independence? We should sell our oil but we should make sure that the revenue from it is used to secure our self-sufficiency. We shoud sell our oil and use the income for our manufacturing industries, the war, and our own economic growth. At the same time we should collect proper and just taxes as well. The prime minister added: Naturally, there is room for expanding ouroil produciton and at present we are moving toward establishing Islam and achieving a self-sufficient and independent economy.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi also explained a few points in connection with the current budget, administrative systems and the public accountancy law, and incomes. The prime minister concluded by stressing that the government's course is a healthy one. He pointed to the government's problems and asked for the foreign trade and land ownership issues to be settled. He added: I can declare that one of the causes halting the growth of agriculture is the undecided issue of land ownership. The next open session of the Majlis will be held at 0730 tomorrow, Sunday.

Majlis Gives General Approval

LD241631 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA — The Majlis gave its general approval to the 1364 (March 1985 - March 1986) budget bill Sunday and prepared for an article-by-article ratification of the bill to begin on Monday.

Before the vote, a number of Cabinet ministers took the floor and pressed the government's request for higher oil exports and called on deputies to reconsider increased taxes because of their direct role in creating higher inflation.

Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi said the government's proposal for an oil exports worth rials 1,867 billion (dlrs 19.8 bn) "is definitely achievable", despite the concern expressed by some deputies of the unstable oil market. Nabavi added that "there is no way" to reach an economy independent of oil other than by setting up primary industries with the income from oil during a limited period.

He also said the government did not agree with the Plan and Budget Committee's doubling of the price of heating fuels but repeated an earlier proposal by the government to increase the price of gasoline by more than 250 percent.

"When you double the price of kerosene for the low-income people in the villages, you are putting the pressure of inflation on them. But gasoline is used by people who have cars. They can drive less, use less spare parts and pollute less," Nabavi said.

However, the head of the Plan and Budget Committee, Najafqoli Dorri Najaf-Abadi said the government had failed to keep its pledge to sell oil up to the level envisaged in the budegt in the current year as well as last year. He said the government is rials 600 billion (dlrs 6.4 bn) short of the target oil sales set by the current budget of rials 1,800 billion (dlrs 19.1 bn), which he said, is even less than what the government had originally requested. In the present circumstances the government has no other choice but to borrow from the domestic banking system, he said.

"In this case, the Majlis is not responsible. The government itself is responsible."

Economy and Finance Minister Hoseyn Namazi said the amount of taxes collected between March 1980 up to now had gradually

increased by more than 156 percent but added that a sudden increase of 300 percent in taxes would have a negative economic impact and should also be based on healthy sources of production.

Ministers of road and transport, energy, and agriculture also complained of the lack of sufficient allocations for their development projects for next year.

The budget bill totals rials 2,638 billion (dlrs 28.7 bn), with rials 1,071 billion (dlrs 11.4 bn) allocated for development and rials 2,567 billion (dlrs 27.3 bn) for current expenses.

UN Report 'Dismisses' Iraqi Claims on POW Handling

Finds No Corroborating Evidence

LD221409 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — A United Nations fact-finding mission after visiting POW camps in both Iran and Iraq in its report to the U.N. secretary-general has dismissed Iraqi claims that their POW's in Iran have been mistreated, and accepted the fact that Iranian POW's in Iraq are subjected to beating, confinement, torture and maltreatment by their Ba'thist prison guards.

The 80-page report which was released four weeks later than the time originally set for its publication was prepared by a team of the United Nations experts who were dispatched to both Iraq and Iran to inspect POW camps and review the treatment POW's receive in both countries.

The report says the mission could not find any corroborating evidence to support the Iraqi claim that their POW's had been badly treated by the Iranian officials. It says the mission could not say anything in this respect.

In another part of the report, it says that Iraqi POW's in Iran are changing their political and religious ideologies under ideological pressure.

The report which does not address the many questions of the Iranian authorities about the fate of civilian Iranians who were taken as prisoners by the Iraqi invaders, speaks in general terms and refers as ideological pressure to the religious teachings the Iraqi POW's receive on their own request. This gives ground to the idea that perhaps the U.N. mission did not remain impartial in its report. But considering the extensiveness of the maltreatment of Iranian POW's in Iraq, the report says there have been numerous cases of maltreatment and beating of Iranian POW's.

In another part of the report, Iran's repeated request for the exchange of POW's by the two countries is referred to as the two sides are asked to do this. It does not say that on numerous occasions, Iran has announced its willingness to release as many Iraqi POW's as there are Iranian POW's in Iraq on a reciprocal basis.

What seems to be the clearest message of the U.N. report is nothing but a huge scandal for the rulers of Baghdad, who, through their extensive propaganda ploys and with the help of Western propaganda media, tried to imply that Iraqi POW's are mistreated in the Islamic Republic. Now, with the release of this U.N. report, the Iraqi ruling clique has no other choice but to admit to its lies and falsifying propaganda tactics.

At the same time, the world thinkers should ask those officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] who not long ago started passing unfair and baised judgements against Iran why their claims have not been corroborated by the U.N. fact finding mission, and why, despite the emphasis of the U.N. mission on the torture and mistreatment of Iranian POW's by the Iraqis, hasn't the ICRC condemned the Iraqis for this blatant mistreatment?

This attitude of the ICRC is nothing but an ignorance of neutrality, the same trend that is witnessed in the attitude of all the Western international organizations when they are dealing with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Musavi on POW Report

LD221851 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said Friday that the report issued by a U.N. fact-finding mission which had visited POW camps in Iran and Iraq had been delayed in its publication "because of pressure exerted by the countries which support Saddam and also by the ICRC.

Although this report indicates the falsification of the ICRC and its collusion with the criminals of Baghdad, nevertheless it does not contain all the relevent facts."

Speaking to IRNA about the U.N. report, Musavi said what was mooted as pressure at the POW camps in Iran was nothing more than the inclination of the Iraqi POW's towards Islam, prayers and the holy Koran, "while at the POW camps inside Iraq, the report talks about pressure, torture and suppression."

He further added that the U.N. report was an indictment of the ICRC and the rightfulness of Iran. "It is appropriate that Third World countries consider the real intentions of the ICRC," he added.

The Iranian prime minister said if the ICRC was in reality unbaised, it should immediately question its chairman for having issued a false statement and confess to its mistakes.

"The whole world should know that we did not have a revolution in order to pay attention to lies that are emitted from the international mouthpieces of European and American racists," he said.

Referring to the rightfulness of the Iranian Islamic Revolution the prime minister said this rightfulness could not be denied even by the United Nations under pressure from America. Iranian newspapers and mass media should react in a more frank and direct way with the propaganda tricks of the world mass media, the prime minister concluded.

Musavi Announces POW Release

LD242112 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi today announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran will release all crippled and ill Iraqi POW's unilaterally. The prime minister announced this in a meeting with members of the Commission in Support of Iranian POWS.

Musavi expressed the hope that the Iraqi regime too, under international pressure, would release crippled and civilian Iranians take captive in the (?war).

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD231957 Tehran IRNA in English 1940 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 23, IRNA — Iran Saturday said she appreciated the efforts of the United Nations delegation which made a report on the state of Iraqi and Iranian POW's and called on "international organisations or elements" to express regret for "aiding" Iraq in spreading false charges against Iran.

In a statement published Saturday, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic said the U.N. report, despite "some weaknesses caused by the false atmosphere at the time it was published," showed Iraq, rather than Iran, should be primarily blamed for violating the Geneva Convention in regards to the treatment of POW's.

"While appreciating the efforts of the delegation", it said the following should now be taken into consideration:

(1) The explicit mention of torture against Iranian prisoners in the report calls for an urgent effort by the international community to prevent such inhuman acts by the Iraqi regime.

(2) False Iraqi propaganda on the Gorgan camp incident, which was spread on the basis of an incorrect report by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has been uncovered and it has now become clear that this Iraqi move was aimed at overshadowing its use of chemical weapons and its crimes committed against Iranian POW's.

(3) Since the Iranian Foreign Ministry repeatedly expressed the above facts long ago and gave necessary warnings to the elements which were spreading such propaganda, it is appropriate that the international organisations or elements, who purposely or unknowingly aided Iraq in its baseless allegations, express regret for this parallel action, or else they would be responsible towards the international community and they would prove their malicious aims.

(4) The Foreign Ministry expresses regret for the delegation's lack of success in determining the fate of the Iranians missing in the war and strongly emphasises the importance and necessity of an investigation into this matter by the international fora.

(5) The recommendation by the U.N. delegation for the freedom of thousands of Iranian civilian POW's lays a heavy responsibility on the international fora to look into this issue. Any neglicence in this regard would not be forgiven in the eyes of the international community.

(6) On the need for the release of prisoners as soon as possible, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic announces that in line with its past policy, it is prepared for any kind of cooperation with the international fora within the framework of humanitarian international laws, and it will continue to release Iraqi POW's unilaterally.

(7) The so-called ideological pressures on Iraqi POW's in Iran is an inappropriate and unrealistic justification of the fact that many of these POW's openly express their opposition to the Iraqi regime.

(8) Now that Iraq's violation of the Geneva Convention are been proven once again, and having in mind the U.N. reports on attacks on civilian targets and use of chemical weapons, this question should be considered more than ever that whether there is any legal international means to stop these crimes and aggressions or not?

In case the international fora give a negative reply to this question by continuing to be indifferent to repeated violations by Iraq, it becomes certain that the international community cannot be defended in the face of violations of the international law and subsequently necessary measures to eliminate this grave weakness in the international community should be of vital importance.

(9) The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic is hopeful that this report will put an end to propaganda and political exploits on the human aspect of the POW issue.

(10) Certainly the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic will inform the U.N. secretary general of its full views on this matter after studying the content and recommendations of the report.

WIH Statement on Report

LD221418 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — The release of a report by a U.N. mission which visited POW camps in both Iran and Iraq confirms the sincerity and genuineness of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said in a statement released Friday.

The WIH statement was issued after a United Nations fact-finding mission released its 80-page report on the conditions at POW camps in Iran and Iraq.

The statement said although the mission's original objective in travelling to Iran was to look into the incident at the Iraqi POW camp in the city of Gorgan, Mazandaran Province, where a number of committed Muslim Iraqi POW's were killed by a number of Ba'thist POW's, the report stated that the mission could not find any evidence to support individual or mass killing of the Iraqi POW's in Iran. The WIH added that the U.N. report was another evidence of the Iraqi regime's outright lies, "a regime which through heavy political spending was hoping to

create some benefits for itself out of the incident at the POW camp in Gorgan," it added.

The U.N. report also creates some problems for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] which not long ago, carried out a one-sided and baised campaign condemning the treatment of Iraqi POW's in Iran. It seems that the ICRC too is a loser in this game and its pronouncements no longer receive the automatic support of other international organizations.

The WIH, in its statement, called on "humanitarian and realistic international organization to pressure the Baghdad regime to put an end to its maltreatment and torture of Iranian POW's in Iraq, and also to free non-military Iranian prisoners who are in Iraqi jails."

The WIH statement expressed regret that a large number of the world's mass media used the incident at the Iraqi POW camp in Gorgan to indulge in a one-sided support for the aggressor Baghdad regime and attack Iran, "thus, acting irresponsibly in informing public opinion and publishing the kind of material that is more an advertisement than news.

It is now only proper for the mass media to make up for its past lies and falsification and announce the truth of the incident at Gorgan POW camp and do not stop at generalities by saying that both Iran and Iraq are not observing the Geneva Convention," the WIH added in its statement.

"What has been referred to as ideological pressure on the Iraqi POW's in fact is nothing more than Iran's natural response to the request of the Muslim Iraqi POW's who, like believers of other religions such as Christianity, ask to have ideological facilities and sources at their disposal, and Islamic Iran, respecting the natural right of the POW's, has provided them with the requested religious facilities and sources," the statement said.

The WIH statement also expressed regret that the U.N. report does not contain anything about the Iranian combatants who were missing in action, abducted civilians including the former minister of oil Mohammad Javad Tondguyan.

The WIH statement ended by saying that the request of the United Nations secretary-general from [as received] Iran and Iraq to exchange POW's is nothing new and that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that in exchange for the release of Iranian civilians and military prisoners in Iraq, an equal number of Iraqi POW's currently in Iran will be freed.

UN Asked To Help Repatriate Iraqi Prisoners

LD221831 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Washington, Feb. 22, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Seyed Rajaie-Khorassani, Thursday asked U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to take appropriate measures to repatriate 31 Iraqi POW's to their home country. Iraq has refused to declare its readiness to accept these POW's after 3 weeks so far.

Also in another letter to De Cuellar, Rajaie-Khorassani stated that Iran will have no other choice but to respond to Iraqi attacks against Iranian civilian targets if these attacks continue.

More POW's Ready for Release

LD231054 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 23, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to release another 48 Iraqi prisoners unilaterally on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. The commission of Iraqi POW's office told IRNA here today that the captives have been registered and are ready to be restored to their country.

It is to be noted that the Islamic Republic announced its readiness for the release of 31 more Iraqi prisoners recently, but the captives are still in Iran due to the unwillingness of the Iraqi regime in receiving them.

Second Iraqi POW Meeting With Relatives Held

LD241848 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA — A group of more than 100 Iraqi prisoners of war met with their relatives at the Heshmatiyeh Tariq al-Qods No. 2 camp here today, the second organised this month.

Speaking to IRNA on the occasion of the visit, commander of the camp, Col. Behbud, said Iraqi prisoners enjoy the same facilities and services as do the Iranian soldiers in the camp. He expressed hope the war would end in the triumph of Iran's Muslim combatants and that the Iraqi prisoners of war would return home equipped with fresh Islamic insight.

Col. Behbud said the POW's receive money for the handicrafts and other things which they produce, and where and when they wish, their handicrafts are sent to their relatives in Iraq. The Iraqi relatives of the POW's expressed appreciation for Iran's efforts for arranging the reunion. They also took photographs as they embraced one another.

Meanwhile the Iraqi POW's told IRNA they benefited from education and other opportunities provided them in Iran. They referred to Saddam as an oppressive ruler, and expressed hope the war would end in the triumph of the Muslim combatants and that they would witness the fall of the ruling regime in Iraq. Towards noon the visiting relatives and the Iraqi POW's sat for lunch.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Defense Report

LD241404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] This morning Defense Ministry supervisor Colonel Rahimi met Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam's top representative in the Supreme Defense Council, and delivered a report to him on the budget and state of affairs of the Defense Ministry.

Friday Prayers Honor South Lebanon Victory

LD222218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Today, concurrently with the anniversary of the Khaibar Operations, the people of our country, in their Friday prayer gatherings, honored the first-round victory of the Islamic Revolution in southern Lebanon. In Tehran, along with the rest of the country, the unified masses of the people held the Friday prayers at Tehran University.

During today's Tehran Friday prayers, the participants honored the anniversary of the great victory of Islam's Army in the Khaibar Operation; and while chanting "war, war until victory", declared "as the umma imam decreed, war is our greatest problem, and we will continue the war until the final victory over the Zionist army of Baghdad."

The worshippers honored the first-round victory of the Islamic Revolution in Lebanon, while declaring their solidarity with the Muslim revolutionaries of southern Lebanon. They expressed the wish to have the struggles continue until the Zionist plot is wiped out and Jerusalem is liberated.

Furthermore, the people of Tehran glorified the anniversary of martyr Ayatollah Dr Beheshti's appointment to the post of presidency of the State Supreme Court by the umma imam, and the memory of this uncompromising Islamic character, who was martyred at the hands of the world arrogance, was honored.

During today's Tehran Friday prayers, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Imami-Kashani analyzed the trends of Lebanon's Islamic revolution, and hailed the victory of southern Lebanese Muslims that resulted in the expulsion of the Zionist forces from that country. He hoped the struggles would continue to wipe out the Zionist hegemony and end in Islam's final victory.

While emphasizing that the victory of Islamic resistance in Lebanon signifies the fact that the only means of salvation of Muslims is through adherence to Islam, he urged the Islamic world to return to Islam to become victorious, as southern Lebanon had achieved the victory by its inspiration from the Islamic Revolution.

The Islamic world must acknowledge that world arrogance does not comprehend the language of compromise and peace, and the way for salvation by the Muslims is the Islamic armed struggle.

Friday Prayers on PLO-Jordanian Agreement

GF221530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Arabic Friday sermon by Tehran ad interim Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 22 February — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I greet the Muslims in all parts of the world. I also congratulate them on the success that was attained by the zealous Muslim masses in Southern Lebanon in their struggle against the Zionist enemy. After 31 months, the Muslims of Southern Lebanon expelled from the city of Sidon the officers of the entity occupying Jerusalem. This occupancy was accompanied by shame and scandal.

We then have to inquire how the murderous Zionists were forced to evacuate territories they occupied and controlled. The answer is that there is a single element that resulted in achieving this historic and great goal.

It is the alertness of the Muslims in southern Lebanon and their banking on God, the Almighty, in addition to their adherence to dear Islam.

Despite the fact that the regime occupying Jerusalem used great military power in southern Lebanon — equivalent to the power it used in its war aginst Syria, Egypt, and Jordan in 1976 — it was defeated in the confrontation of the unarmed southern Lebanese Muslims and in its battle against Hezbollah. So it failed to remain there because it was presenting sacrifices every hour.

Despite all these victories, we see that the PLO made an agreement with Jordan on the instructions of the United States. Seen from the outside, the agreement is positively dealt with by the reactionary media, yet from the inside the agreement is designed to (?serve) Israel.

The reactionary leaders in the region expressed their support for this agreement. What is strange is that Israel — after its resounding defeat by signing the agreement [passage as heard] — distributed pamphlets from planes calling for reconciliation and peace. This is the plan of all vanquished aggressors.

The Zionist Saddam also called for peace when he realized that his regime and forces failed to confront the audacious fighters of Islam. After the defeat in 1967, 'Abd Nasir in a speech in Khartoum announced that there will no peace, no bargaining, and no negotiations with the Zionists.

In 1973, Al-Sadat said yes to peace, to bargaining, and to negotiations with the Zionists when he signed the Camp David accords. The recent agreement between Jordan and the PLO is merely a new matter [derived] from the perfidious Camp David.

The Muslims in southern Lebanon are steadfast, thanks be to God. They announced that Zionism only knows the language of power and guns. They announced that their enthusiasm — which is directed by the ulema — takes its inspiration from concepts from the Koran, where it says: "And Allah will not grant the disbelievers a way to prevail against the believers." From this premise, this is a psychological and religious movement that is only concerned with Islam, with doctrine, with Islamic law, and with religious duties ordered by God, the Almighty.

O Muslims, if we want to be a united, victorious, and independent nation, then the only course to follow is the return to genuine Islam, and the implementation of the holy Koran in every respect. God will bestow victory on us. He promised us with victory when God the Almighty said: "But if you be steadfast and righteous, their designs will not harm you at all." Peace be upon thee.

Economic Delegation Leaves for Talks in Japan

LD241912 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 24, IRNA — Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi left Tehran today heading an economic delegation to Japan, where he will have talks with Japanese officials and visit a number of industrial plants.

Nabavi said before his departure that the visit is aimed at "deepening and expanding industrial relations between Iran and Japan."

The minister also announced that Iranian officials and Japanese businessmen were currently holding talks in Tehran which could lead to the finalisation of a contract for the assembly of a new passenger car in Iran, and in other industrial fields.

He said Japan has been "assured" that Iran would purchase Japanese goods at least the equivalent of 50 percent of the oil purchased by Japan.

IRGC Calls Up Volunteers, Forces for War Front

Bushehr Forces Called

GF231048 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1029 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] The combatant Muslim people of Lebanon are celebrating the dawn of the first victory which was inspired by your revolution. O scions of Islam, proceed ahead so that with divine succor and grace a second model may be presented to Muslims of the world in the toppling of the infidel Ba'thist regime.

On the anniversary of the grand anniversary of the Khaibar Operations which culminated in the conquest of the important, strategic Majnun Islands, in order to pay homage to the grand status of the epic-making martyrs of Khaibar, the establishment of the Jerusalem base of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] of the Bushehr provincial division, all the forces of the Labbayk ya Khomeyni scheme, and the 20-million strong members are informed:

All the forces of the Labbayk ya Khomeyni, Jerusalem garrisons, and members of the 20-million strong army are hereby requested to report to the Bushehr District IRGC dispatch units and in other districts to the bases of the corps mobilization so that their dispatch may be arranged, for the holy way in the path of God, and for the assistance of the epicmakers of Islam.

[Signed] The Jerusalem base of the IRGC Bushehr District.

Central Region Calls Volunteers

LD231229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, central region, has asked all volunteers for the war front and combatants who have applied to be sent to the fronts again, to report to enrollment centers of the region situated in (Malek-e Ashtar), (Shahid Beheshti), Abuzam, Mekhdiabad, (Salman-e Farsi), (Shemiranat Eslamshahr), Shahr-e Rey, Damvand, Firuzkuh and Karaj district garrisons until close of office hours tomorrow, 24 February, in order to be sent to war fronts.

Iraqis in Iran Called

LD231854 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23 IRNA — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) today called on Iraqi Muslims residing in Iran, who are willing to join Iran's Muslim combatants in the war fronts, to refer to IRGC headquarters or Iraqi basij (mobilization) centers throughout the country.

In a statement issued here today, the IRGC announced that the call was made following "repeated requests by the Muslim Iraqi brothers residing in Iran." The statement further announced that the applicants must have already passed necessary military training.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 2,012

LD221804 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — An Iraqi battalion was crushed in Mandali region of Iraq at 3 a.m. Wednesday (11:30 hours GMT Tuesday). The battalion intended to attack the Islamic combatants in Sumar operational region in the western front.

Announcing this, the Joint Staff Command Communique No. 2012 released Friday further said that exchange of fire continued in north western fronts, with heavy exchange of fire in Sardasht border region, in West Azarbayjan Province.

In the western fronts, the Islamic defenders checked the Iraqi movements and engineering activities especially in Halaleh region where the enemy sustained human and financial casualties.

An Iraqi patrol group was targeted by Islamic defenders in the region overlooking Khorramshahr, in southwest Iran and was forced to flee. Exchange of fire was intense in the southern fronts of Nahr-Anbar, Kushk, Khorramshahr and the Majnun Island. The Iraqi fire was silenced in these regions and their engineering activities checked. The gendarmerie forces also inflicted casualties upon the Iraqi forces in Arvand River region, concluded the communique.

No 2,013

LD231657 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran bombarded Iraqi troop concentration sites and supply lines in the southern war front Friday.

Joint Staff Command Communique Number 2013 said enemy infantry and tank units tried to infiltrate Iranian positions in the Yebis area but were forced to retreat under heavy fire.

Cross fire between the two sides continued on the Arvand River banks with Iranian fire destroying 8 enemy bunkers, two observation posts, one vehicle and a quantity of ammunition. Ten Iraqi soldiers were also killed in this area.

In the western and north western fronts, the Muslim combatants patrolled the area and controlled enemy movements. Iranian artillery bombarded enemy positions and forced their patrols to retreat in Sumar and Sardasht, the communique concluded.

No 2,014

LD241722 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 24, IRNA — Sporadic artillery duels between the Muslim forces of Iran and the Iraqi forces continued in the north western front of Sardasht, with Iranian troops maintaining the upper hand and silencing enemy fire Saturday.

Joint Staff Command Communique No. 2014 said the Muslim combatants spotted two enemy patrols in the same area and forced them to retreat under fire.

In the western front, enemy movements were under control while the Iranian forces also despatched patrol units and bombed Iraqi positions. The heaviest confrontations were reported in the Maymak area.

Enemy engineering activities and the movement of their supply columns in Sumar, Qasr-e Shirin and Naft-e Shah were effectively controlled by Iranian fire.

In the southern front, Iranian combatants strengthened their positions while holding fire on enemy positions and interrupting their activity.

The activity of an Iraqi patrol unit was halted in the Yebis area while in the Arvand River area five enemy troops were killed or wounded and nine of their bunkers and observation posts were destroyed.

Heavy Casualties Reported in Haj 'Umran Clash

LD231713 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azerbaijan Pr. Feb. 23, IRNA — Exchange of fire persisted in the Haj 'Umran operational region during the past 24 hours, with Islamic combatants silencing Iraqi fire, inflicting heavy casualties on them, according to Hamzeh Seyyed al-Sharnada Headquarters.

Iraqi Forces Killed, Weapons Seized in Attack

LD241719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Coinciding with the anniversary of the victorious Khaibar Operations, the powerful combatants of Islam in Pich-e Angizeh region attacked the Ba'thist Zionist Forces of Iraq, inflicting heavy damage and casualties.

According to this report, yesterday, at 2000, the duped forces of the Zionist Saddam, hoping in vain to penetrate the fortified positions of the blasphemy fighters of Islam situated in Pich-e Angizeh, attacked our forces. Immediately our alert forces, coordinated and well prepared, quashed this propaganda gimmick of the Ba'thist forces, as a result of which a number of enemy forces were killed and a quantity of light weapons were captured by the forces of Islam.

Further Report

LD242046 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., Feb. 24, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants on Saturday night thwarted an attack by the Iraqi troops in the southern sector of the battle fronts.

The enemy offensive was carried out at eight p.m. (18:30 GMT) in the Pich-e Angizeh border region south of Fakkeh, about 120 kms north west of here, in Khuzestan Province. A large number of casualties were inflicted upon the enemy forces and a large haul of light weapons were seized from them. The Islamic forces are building up their previous positions in the area and are ready to crush any subsequent attack by the Iraqi forces.